

REMARKS***Status Of Claims***

Claims 1-32 are currently under examination. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bampton (US Pat # 5,745,834). Claims 2-4, 6-8, 12-20, 22, and 24-31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bampton (US Pat # 5,745,834) in view of Ryang (US Patent # 6,365,093). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bampton (US Pat # 5,745,834) in view of Newell (US Pat # 5,932,055). Claims 11, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bampton (US Pat # 5,745,834) and Ryang (US Patent # 6,365,093) in view of Newell (US Patent # 5,932,055).

Arguments

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by US Patent 5,745,834 to Brampton. In this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to further require a green body having a relative density of at least 58%, and that the supersolidus liquid phase sintering operation occurs predominately in a temperature range between about 2252 °F to about 2260 °F with a hold time at a maximum holding temperature of ten minutes or less. These amendments are supported in the detailed description of the originally filed application at page 11, lines 15 through page 12, line 10; at page 16, lines 3-16; and at page 17, lines 19-21.

Bampton does not disclose these additional limitations for a method of direct metal fabrication as recited by amended independent claim 1. The prior art of record does not supply these deficiencies. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 21 and 23 have been amended to coincide with the amended independent claim 1 from which they depend. Claims 10-11 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 2-9, 12-19,

and 21-32 each depend from independent claim 1 and add additional limitations. As such, each of these claims is also now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the aforesaid, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2-9, 12-19, and 21-32 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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